

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 164007
ORIGIN SS-25

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O 280023Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 164007

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEV, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: VIOLENCE AGAINST UNARMED CIVILIANS

1. DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE YOUR SUGGESTIONS ON THE
BEST WAY TO COMMUNICATE OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE RISING
LEVEL OF VIOLENCE COMMITTED AGAINST UNARMED CIVILIANS
ON BOTH SIDES IN RHODESIAN CONFLICT. AS YOU MAY BE
AWARE, DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN CONDEMNED THE RECENT
SLAUGHTER OF THE MISSIONARIES NEAR UMTALI AS WELL AS
THE RECENT CIVILIAN DEATHS IN MOZAMBIQUE. WE WOULD
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LIKE YOUR VIEWS ON WHETHER, WHEN AND HOW WE CAN MOST
EFFECTIVELY EXPRESS OUR POSITION ON SUCH ATTACKS
TO THE RHODESIANS, THE FRONT LINE, AND THE
PF.

2. WE FEEL THAT TWO POINTS ARE IMPORTANT TO GET ACROSS:
FIRST, SUCH MERCILESS ACTION, WHETHER COMMITTED AGAINST

MISSIONARIES OR THE UNARMED CIVILIANS, BLACK OR WHITE,
IS SOMETHING ABOUT WHICH WE MUST PROTEST. SECOND,
THESE ACTS, BESIDES BEING DEPLORABLE, ARE MOST DAMAGING
TO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

3. PLEASE REPLY BY IMMEDIATE CABLE. VANCE

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NNN

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